

Appln. No. 10/687,384

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1868

**II. Remarks**

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested. Claims 2-26 remain pending.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

Applicant respectfully acknowledges the allowability of claims 7-24 and 26. Further, the examiner indicated that claims 2-6 were objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form including all the elements of previous claim 1. Claims 3-6 depend from claim 2 and are, therefore, patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 2.

*Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)*

Claims 1 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,220,385 to Bohner et al. (Bohner).

Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claim 25 has been amended to depend from claim 2, and is, therefore, patentable for at least the same reasons as given above in support of claim 2.

*Conclusion*

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of

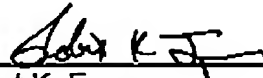
Appln. No. 10/687,384

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1868

record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dated: July 20, 2006

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert K. Fergan  
Reg. No.: 51,674  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE  
P.O. Box 10395  
Chicago, IL 60610  
(734) 302-6000